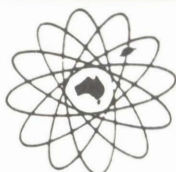




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CONTENTS

Editorial.....	2
North American UFO Federation, Inc.....	3
AUSSAT: The Australian National Satellite Communication System - Jane Brooks.....	4
An A to Z of UFO Explanations - Paul & Cassandra Sowiak-Rudej.....	5
British Government Confirms UFO Landing - John F. Schuessler.....	6
A Review of Research To date into Vehicle Interference Effects - Keith Basterfield.....	7
Australian "Interrupted Journeys" - Bill Chalker.....	14
Rumours and Publicity - Their Causes and Effects - Mark Tyrrell.....	24
Reference Library.....	33

editorial

UFO RESEARCH AUSTRALIA

We wish to announce the formation of a new-concept style of organisation which will consist solely of persons actively participating in UFO research.

This newly formed organisation will utilise the UFO Research Australia Newsletter {UFORAN} as its publishing vehicle.

The organisation's emphasis will be on cooperative research and, for want of attaching a distinguishing name, it will be known as UFO Research Australia {UFORA}, thus complimenting UFORAN's name.

The formation of this new-concept organisation was initiated by Vladimir Godic, Pony Godic and Keith Basterfield.

UFORA seeks continuing information exchange either on an individual basis, irrespective of organisational affiliations, or at an organisational level.

UFO Research Australia will not compete with any other UFO organisation. UFORA is to be a private research group utilising UFORAN as a means of communication.

UFORA's emphasis will be on co-operative research and the past track record of the three founders will speak for itself. All three have been active in Australian ufology and, most importantly, have extensively contributed, by way of personal time and money, to everyone's benefit.

We, the founders, welcome Bill Chalker as a UFORA Scientific Consultant. We also welcome our other new members and thank those kind enough to make financial contributions, at this early stage, towards running expenses.

You are invited to liaise with, or participate in, UFO Research Australia by:

- {a} Continuing to submit articles to UFORAN which will remain an independent publication, edited and published by Vladimir Godic, with the same aims and format, that is, presenting the best of Australian ufology to the world and the best of world ufology to Australia.
- {b} Co-operative exchange of information with UFORA.

The organisation's address will be:

UFO Research Australia {UFORA}
PO Box 229
Prospect
South Australia 5082
AUSTRALIA

We welcome your feedback on this editorial announcement.■

NORTH AMERICAN UFO FEDERATION, INC.

The field of serious UFO studies has received growing interest over the past 25 years by literally thousands of people in many nations. Significantly, there has been relatively little progress made in gaining a clear and accurate understanding of what the core identity of so-called *UFO Phenomenon* is. A major step has been taken recently to achieve this goal by working to bring about better cooperation, communication, and mutual support among serious investigators through the formation of the North American UFO Federation, Inc. (NAUFOF for short). The federation took form through efforts of a Steering Committee appointed in Toronto, Ontario on July 4, 1982. This group developed By Laws and elected a Board of Directors prior to their first official meeting in Pasadena, California on July 3, 1983. NAUFOF is legally incorporated in the State of Delaware as of September 30, 1983. Representing geographically diversified UFO groups, the following people were elected to the NAUFOF Board of Directors: Mrs Ann Druffel (representing Skynet in the greater Los Angeles area), Peter Mazzola (Director of the Scientific Bureau of Investigation with headquarters in New York), Charles J. Wilhelm (Director of the Ohio UFO Investigators League), Walter H. Andrus, Jr. (Director of the Mutual UFO Network with headquarters in Seguin, Texas), Richard H. Hall (representing the Fund for UFO Research in Maryland), Rick R. Hilberg (Director of the Northern Ohio UFO Group), J. Allen Hynek (Director of the Center for UFO Studies, Evanston, Illinois), Henry H. McCay (Canada), and Richard F. Haines (Los Altos, California). The original Steering Committee was chaired by John F. Schuessler of Houston, Texas.

Officers elected in Pasadena were: Ann Druffel (Treasurer), Peter Mazzola (Secretary), Henry McKay (Deputy Director), and Dr Richard F. Haines (Director).

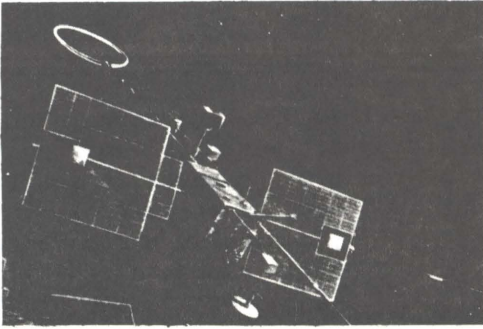
The North American UFO Federation, Inc. has as its basic objectives: (a) working towards greater mutual cooperation and support in conducting field investigations, information gathering, analysis, and developing a rapid investigative response capability. (b) developing and urging the use of standardized reporting forms, investigative procedures, and equipment so as to improve the reliability of the UFO data that is available for analysis. (c) acting as a source of accurate and up-to-date information on the subject of unidentified aerial phenomena for those who desire such information, (d) working toward the establishment of a computerized data-base that will support affiliate member research, and (e) establishing an effective public relations committee in order to provide the general public with credible, up-to-date information on current UFO activity, prepare educational materials, and respond to unfavorable or biased news coverage as quickly and as accurately as possible. In addition, a speaker's bureau will be established to assist interested outside parties who desire local spokesmen on the subject of UFOs. Other objectives may be forthcoming as other needs become identified.

While still in its infancy, the North American UFO Federation, Inc. has an impressive list of charter member groups. While the challenge before the federation is very great, its directors realize that it will require the support of a great many people. If you are seriously interested in the subject of *Unidentified Flying Objects and closely related phenomena* and wish to apply for membership or just to learn more about NAUFOF please write to:

Peter Mazzola, Secretary-NAUFOF
PO Box 193
Staten Island, New York 10312
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A U S S A T: THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

BY JANE BROOKS

(UFORAN Space Technology Correspondent)

The Australian satellite communication system is based on two separate segments; a Space Segment and an Earth Segment.

The Space Segment consists of the satellites themselves and ground control facilities. The first two satellites are due to be launched on board NASA's Space Shuttle in July and October 1985, and a third will be launched later as a spare. The satellites are the same type as the two which were placed in the wrong orbit by faulty boosters during the tenth Shuttle mission earlier this year, but AUSSAT Pty.'s General Manager, Mr Gosewinckel, has stated during the AUSSAT public briefings that he is confident the problems with the boosters will be rectified before Australia's satellites are launched. It is worthwhile noting that the type of booster which failed, known as a PAM, had performed perfectly on 18 previous occasions!

The satellite system has been designed so that it can cover all of Australia and surrounding coastal waters. There will be a national beam and four individual "spot" beams with one each for W.A., Queensland, S.A. & N.T., and one for N.S.W., VIC., and Tas. Another "spot" beam will provide internal communication services for Papua New Guinea. Each satellite will be able to transmit and receive signals in two ways: between two points like a telephone call; and from a single point to any number of points like a T.V. or radio station. The satellites will be monitored by two control stations, located in Sydney and Perth, which will be technically known as the Tracking, Telemetry, Command and Monitoring Stations.

The Earth Segment consists of the appropriate equipment that users will require in order to transmit or receive signals from the satellites. These "earth stations" use dish type antennas of varying diameter and cost. Some will be receive only, and can be used

for receiving T.V. and radio signals but for nothing else. Others will be able to transmit as well as receive, and are much more expensive. Each capital city, plus Darwin and Canberra, will have a Major City Earth Station, which will be owned by AUSSAT Pty. Other smaller ones could be built by individual users such as remote mining sites.

The main users of the satellite system will be the A.B.C. for broadcasting T.V. and radio programs to some 300,000 people living in remote and isolated areas, the Department of Civil Aviation for two way communication between air traffic control centres and VHF receiver/transmitter stations being established which are beyond the reach of terrestrial networks, and TELECOM so it can extend its telephone service to areas that are currently inadequately provided for.

Other users will be businesses, the police, and meteorological organizations. Unfortunately, the cost of a small receive/transmit earth station, at about \$15,000, will be out of reach of most outback people, but for any that can afford one, the satellite system could also be used for purposes such as the School of the Air.

The satellite system will be run on a profit making basis so that it will not be a drain on the taxpayer, and should be able to recover costs and begin paying a dividend to its shareholder, the Australian Federal Government, before 1992. More details about the system, its costs etc., are available from AUSSAT Pty. Ltd., MLC Centre, 19 Martin Place, Sydney NSW 2000. (Most of the information in this article has been taken from their publications).

There will not be an Australian payload specialist going up on the Shuttle with one of the satellites, because the Federal Government wants more time for a high quality

Australian research payload to be developed.
What about the experiments of Drs Hoh and
Dintenfass?

Perhaps a few more letters are needed to
remind the Government about them!■

AN A TO Z OF UFO EXPLANATIONS

(BY PAUL & CASSANDRA SOWIAK-RUDEJ)

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS ISSUE:

This article is not intended to represent an exhaustive list of all possible proposed explanations for UFO activity, but is designed to show something of the range and nature of the solutions that various researchers, authors etc. have considered. If it opens peoples' minds, or stimulates them to examine the evidence, it has fulfilled its purpose.

P THE PHENOMENON - Proposed by: D. Scott Rogo, Jerome Clark. Concept: UFOs are visions created by the Phenomenon, an unidentified cosmic psychic source. This source has the ability to read men's minds, and extract material from their subconscious; when an individual undergoes a life crisis or other trauma, an appropriate sighting or abduction scenario is provided by the Phenomenon in order to aid the person involved. In many cases, the events thus created are physically real; in others, they represent merely a psychic projection. Source: UFO ABDUCTIONS, D. Scott Rogo, Signet 1980.

PARAPHYSICAL - Proposed by: J. Keel, Dr M. layne, H.T. Wilkins. Concept: UFOs are ultraterrestrial, transmogrifications of energy and matter. They are directly related to the electromagnetic spectrum, and are an integral part of our environment, even if they do not normally form part of our reality. They are cosmic jokers, manipulating man for their own purposes, and their manifestations are deliberately contradictory and misleading - Keel.

PSYCHIC PROJECTION - Proposed by: C. Bowen. Concept: UFO sightings and other strange events are projections of dream-like sequences directed into the minds of the percipients. Source: J. Keel, op. cit.

Q QUARANTINE THEORY - Proposed by: Various authors. Concept: Earth is in quarantine, watched over by members of a Galactic Federation, or police force, who have the task of ensuring that we do not endanger the rest of the Solar System etc. by exploding nuclear devices, or venturing forth to explore and conquer. If we survive to improve our attitudes, then we may be permitted to join this Club of older, more advanced civilizations. Source: O. Binder, op. cit.

R RADIANT BEINGS - Proposed by: Ray Palmer. Concept: There is a civilization of intelligent, non-material energy beings in the Van Allen Belt (1,200 - 40,000 miles above Earth). These creatures are sometimes forced to descend into the lower atmosphere to shelter from magnetic storms and other disturbances. They then become visible due to a sort of plasma-glow which surrounds them. As they consist of plasma in this state, they can change shape at will. Source O. Binder op. cit.

To be continued...

BRITISH GOVERNMENT CONFIRMS UFO LANDING

BY JOHN F. SCHUESSLER

Two hundred British and American military and civilian personnel witnessed the landing of a strange flying machine. Farm cattle were crazed as the object glided overhead, finally landing in Tangham Wood, just one-half mile from the United States Air Force Base at RAF Woodbridge, in England.

According to the British newspaper NEWS OF THE WORLD, the key witness is Lt. Colonel Charles I. Halt, deputy commander of the USAF 81st Tactical Fighter Wing. Col. Halt's report included a description of strange lights seen by base security police. Investigators that went into the woods spotted a triangular glowing object. They said it was six feet high and ten feet across. It illuminated the whole forest.

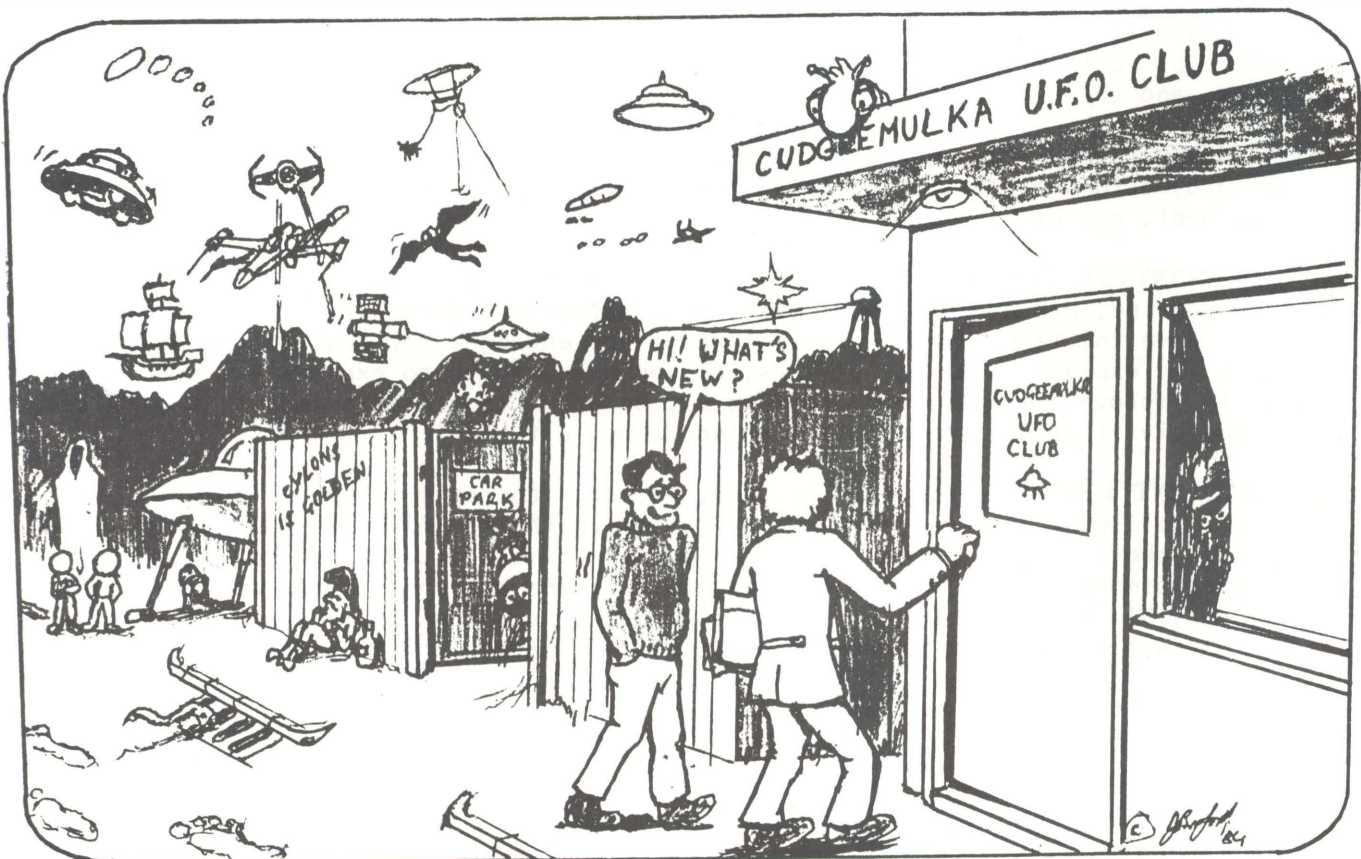
One of the security policemen told how the blinding object affected the animals of the forest, causing them to flee in panic. He said the fuel gauges on the military vehicles registered empty, even though they knew the tanks were full. The clearing near the strange object was full of USAF and RAF military people, some with movie cameras.

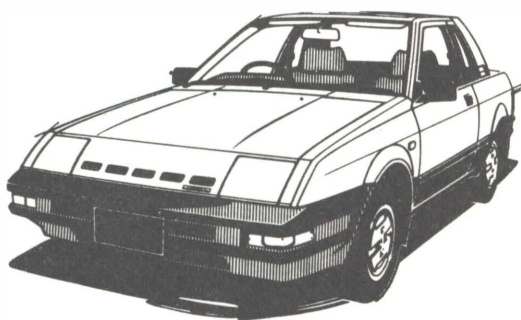
The sky was filled with helicopters. This object was more than a simple light in the night sky, and it landed in a violent burst of light. As it sat on the ground, the security police could see three beings in silver suits moving around doing some kind of work.

According to the newspapers, USAF Brigadier General Gordon Williams said he recalled the report. It was his opinion that Lt. Colonel Halt would not hoax the British Air Ministry or the United States Air Force.

Other reports described how the object was tracked on radar from a station 50 miles from the site of the landing.

Perhaps the most important factor in this case is that it happened on December 27, 1980, just two days before three people were injured by a huge glowing object near Houston, Texas. In that incident the light was also blinding and helicopters filled the sky. It is time someone provides some answers. We are stuck with far too many questions.■





A REVIEW OF RESEARCH TODATE INTO VEHICLE INTERFERENCE EFFECTS

BY KEITH BASTERFIELD

A survey of research into UFO reports in which a motor vehicle is said to have experienced "interference", e.g. engine stalling, has been conducted.

The results of this survey are given in this article in which the initials VIE will stand for vehicle interference effect(s).

It seems to be generally accepted that vehicles, inter-reacting with the UFO phenomena, suffer "electromagnetic effects". This acceptance seems to have been widespread since the modern upsurge of UFO reports began in 1947.

Perhaps the main opposing viewpoint to this acceptance has been that the driver, in panic, stalled or altered the performance of the vehicle.

Very little research appears to have been carried out into the subject until the mid 1960s, with vehicle interference reports being scattered here and there, amongst other types of close encounters, in books, magazines and filing systems.

One of the first compilations of data is to be found in "The UFO Evidence" which was published by NICAP in 1964 and which brought

together 106 reports, including 45 in which motor vehicles were said to have stalled.

Two years later came a challenge to the long held belief in electromagnetic fields being the cause of VIE events. Vallee & Vallee in 1966, when discussing secondary effects (traces, VIE cases, etc.), wrote:

"...the hypotheses put forward by UFO students are quite inadequate to explain these effects in terms of the UFO 'technology' they assume. Michel, for instance, has summed up his discussion of the secondary effects by saying that all these effects can be explained by the production of a suitable magnetic field {5}. This is obviously insufficient, particularly when the claim is extended to 'the production of induced currents in the human body without touching it'." {1}

Apparently unhappy with the electromagnetic (EM) field idea, the Vallees called for a global study of all interference cases and experimental investigation into the cause of the effects.

Also that year, a more precise suggestion

for the nature of the EM effect was put forward. In her 1966 work, "Flying Saucers, the Startling Evidence of an Invasion from Outer Space", Coral Lorenzen discussed the 1957 Fort Itaipu case, investigated by Dr O. Fontes. Later, in a paper titled "UFO Weapons - Comments on Technical Aspects Involved", Fontes wrote:

"The evidence at hand indicates that UFOs possess means of creating in the ignition systems of automobile and aircraft internal combustion engines secondary currents powerful enough to destroy the synchronization of spark-plug action and thus stall the engine;...these 'electric effects' are not merely side effects of the powerful electromagnetic fields that exist around UFOs, but the result of purposeful interference of a weapon used as a means of defence or attack...Existing evidence suggests that such a weapon is not an alternating magnetic field in itself, but a high frequency, long range electromagnetic beam of some sort, i.e. a radio-electric wave concentrated into a narrow powerful beam. After a careful analysis of the data I came to the conclusion that this weapon might be a microwave ionizer..." {2}

In short, Fontes proposed the cause of a VIE event was in fact a weapon generating microwaves, which ionised the air, causing a short between the terminals of a battery, thus bringing on the effects.

Older ideas were, however, still very much alive and kicking, as evidenced in 1967 by Otto Binder in "What We Really Know About Flying Saucers", when he wrote a chapter headed "Electromagnetic Wizardry". Recounting the October 26, 1958, Loch Raven Dam incident, he commented:

"This is one example of another pattern displayed by the UFOs - the widely reported phenomena of electromagnetic effects when a flying saucer is nearby. Some sort of field of energy, probably related to the ship's propulsion, seems to surround UFOs with effects that are various and startling: killing car motors..." {3}

A new suggestion for the cause of VIE events

was put forward in 1968 by Philip J. Klass. In a general overview of the UFO phenomena, Klass proposed that natural atmospheric plasma was the cause of a multitude of UFO events. At one stage he stated:

"...because a plasma contains a cloud of electrified particles, there is no doubt that if an auto battery were enveloped by such a plasma the battery could be short circuited". {4}

However, this explanation was challenged by Dr James E. McDonald who pointed out that Klass' suggestion about how plasma ions could get inside the bonnet of a car by "mirror-images" was totally incorrect. The idea was easily dismissed according to McDonald. {5}

The study of UFOs, undertaken by the university of Colorado, has received a tremendous amount of criticism since the release of that university's report. However, they did come up with a way to improve the quality of vehicle interference research in 1968. Chapter 4, of section 3, of the report, was written by Roy Craig, an associate professor and co-ordinator of physical sciences at the university, and titled "Indirect Physical Evidence". Whilst commenting on the fact that some UFOs reportedly stopped cars and others did not, he added:

"...strange animal reactions, and even interference with telephone operation, have been claimed in cases in which the UFO was later identified as a bird or a plastic balloon". {6}

Discussion ensued on testing an hypothesis that motors are stopped, or interfered with, by magnetic fields associated with UFOs. Experiments were conducted and results showed that an ignition coil in a steel container would continue to operate in magnetic fields of less than 20 K ϵ . Coupled with the protection of the bonnet and body of a car, far higher fields would be needed to stall an engine.

Further experimental work included examining the magnetic signature of a vehicle which, the driver claimed, had been near a UFO. The test showed no change, when compared with a control vehicle, implying that the tested vehicle had not been exposed to a high intensity magnetic field.

Meanwhile, Coral and Jim Lorenzen were posing questions:

"There is considerable dispute about just what causes these mechanical failures of vehicles because we actually know so very little about UFOs themselves. But, on the other hand, we do know, in the context of Earth technology, that a rapidly varying magnetic field can create secondary currents powerful enough to disrupt the synchronization of the sparking action. Could this result from the power, so to speak, used by UFOs"? {7}

Later they added:

"Whatever the UFOs use to stall engines, it is not effective when used on diesels or steam engines {there have been several incidents of UFOs 'buzzing' trains}. It does not seem that the UFOs involved in these EM cases are using a defensive system, for they invariably make their approach at their own discretion, and therefore are not defending themselves against anything. Nor is there any indication that the device used to stall cars ...is a purely accidental by-product of the propulsion system of the UFO ...There is one possible answer if the UFOs are real machines. The occupants may desire to disable the subject of their scrutiny in order to make a leisurely study..." {7}

Research then seemed to take a back seat between 1969 and 1976. It was not until the latter year that James McCampbell presented some new ideas. In the book "UFOlogy", while discussing electrical interference, he states:

"The implication is clear: the mechanism of UFO interference is something other than low frequency, electromagnetic radiation". {8}

Elaborating on this, with internal combustion engines, McCampbell concludes that:

"The only way to stop a running engine, therefore, is to disrupt the electrical system. Thus the

influence of UFOs upon automobiles is most assuredly electrical or electromagnetic in nature..."

Going on to discuss the Condon committee's investigation he notes:

"Instead of focusing exclusively upon strong magnetic fields, the investigation should have encompassed fluctuating electromagnetic fields that could have effects upon engines, radios and headlamps without altering the magnetic signature of the car body. This approach was suggested by David R. Saunders who held a key position on the project. High frequency electromagnetic radiation is an excellent candidate for the cause of UFO interference with cars". {8}

McCampbell also presented a paper at the 1976 CUFOS conference under the title, "UFO Interference with Automobile Electrical Systems, Part 1, Headlights" (9). In the paper McCampbell noted that, during the 1954 French and the 1957 Levelland episodes, the UFO was reported to be in front of the vehicle. This led him to propose that the headlamp reflector was perhaps acting as a receiving dish for microwave energy. This idea was further expanded on at the 1977 MUFON symposium and documented in the proceedings of that meeting. (10) The paper here explored the possibility of radiation from a UFO in front of the vehicle causing engine failure. Verification of the fact that vehicle failures have a direction sensitivity followed from a survey by Mark Rodeghier, of CUFOS, who showed that the typical event, in 357 cases, involved a UFO descending in front of the vehicle.

"Another case, in short, totally worthless from the point of view of scientific inquiry. Again, a single witness {suspect at that} sighting and no confirmatory evidence whatever". {11}

This is how Donald Menzel and Ernest Traves, in 1977, dismissed case 12 of the Condon report. The case was one in which a lady reported observing a luminous object which followed her car, causing mechanical and electrical functions impairment. Their conclusion was based on the fact that the lady

was a "repeater", the account had discrepancies, and that the examination of the vehicle, by the manufacturer, disclosed all malfunctions (except a broken radio antenna) were the results of wear and tear.

Later, Menzel and Taves demolished Condon case 17, which involved a youth who reported a large glowing object which affected his car. They stated:

"Here we have yet another case of a single observer report with no supporting evidence. The magnetization pattern of the automobile was checked and found to be normal. The engine was found to be badly out of tune, but no physical evidence could be found that was related to the sighting". {11}

Case 39, likewise, fell to their combined talents and it would seem, from their treatment of these three cases, that they had little time for single witness reports.

Following the lead of investigators and researchers such as McCampbell, 1979 brought the beginning of serious research and the gathering of basic data on our topic of interest.

The British UFO Research Association, in the UK, published a 102 page report (12) presenting summaries of 424 vehicle (motor, aircraft and boats) events. Besides the release of this essential catalogue, came an indepth examination of two 1968 UK cases. One involved a man driving a car when a small golden object, moving at high speed and visible for only two seconds, passed by. The car's headlights failed, the radio fell silent, the engine stopped and the vehicle came to a halt. After the object had gone, the headlights relit and the man was able to restart the motor. However, the radio remained inoperative. Fortunately, the radio was examined and an analysis prepared and given in the report. By comparison, there was recounted an incident in which three separate vehicles reportedly experienced a simultaneous electrical systems breakdown. The reported effects included:

Car 1 - no current across the battery terminals, stone cold radiator, speedo jammed on 30 mph, interior thermometer show-

ing zero, car clock stopped.

Car 2 - car-mounted compass spinning wildly, stopped clock, zero battery current.

Car 3 - no battery current, stopped clock.

To top it all off, car 1's key wouldn't open the boot! Half an hour later their lights came back on, the drivers could start their engines and proceed. The most important point to note here is that at no stage was a UFO seen.

BUFORA also attempted a few statistical extractions related to percentage of engine malfunctions, lights, humanoids, and physiological effects. Finally, a discussion by a project team was given. They explored "engine malfunctions", "failure of lights" and "mechanical trouble". Their suggested recommendations for the future included:

*Expand analysis of the most interesting cases.

*Look for cases earlier than August 28, 1945 (aircraft).

*Experiment to try and reproduce effects.

*Use a questionnaire to gather basic facts.

Jenny Randles and Peter Warrington in their book, "UFOs: a British Viewpoint", after discussing an example of a VIE event, wrote:

"We can of course postulate some kind of electro-magnetic field - but it is of interest to note that examinations of vehicles involved in cases such as these do not usually reveal the tell tale signs of being subject to a field strength which would be capable of causing the ignition to fail...Are we therefore to believe that this whole thing is again subjective? Could it be that the car is stopped by relatively normal means. In other words the UFO experience creates a particular atmosphere around the witnesses which causes them to stop the car - although they quite possibly are not aware of doing so nor of making futile attempts to re-start it". {13}

They go on later to say:

"Whatever causes the UFO event in some way causes the electromagnetic effects".

Then, they point out that not all close encounters with vehicles result in effects - why? Their suggestion was to perhaps look towards the emotional state of one of the percipients. Later, they recounted Professor John Taylor's analysis of apparent parapsychological effects and suggest that perhaps the witnesses create the effects themselves. Quite a different approach to the early days of metallic discs beaming vehicles to a halt.

In an entry in the 1980 "Encyclopedia of UFOs" (14), Stanton T. Friedman, under the heading of "Electromagnetic Effects of UFOs", in summing up why all UFOs do not manifest EM effects, suggested several possible factors:

*Effects may depend on distance.

*Occupants of UFOs might be testing devices capable of affecting vehicles.

*One might need a certain type of object in a certain proximity to a certain type of UFO.

He also stated a need for greater data collection and attempts at duplication of effects in laboratories.

1981 saw the publication of a joint catalogue and analysis by Mark Rodeghier which, to date, has been the best overall contribution to the subject under study. In his introductory remarks he stated, as have so many before him:

"However, I soon discovered that the data that has been collected about the vehicles involved has been, to put it charitably, somewhat skimpy for all but a few well documented cases". {15}

Rodeghier presented a catalogue of 441 events which involved land vehicles, together with sources, before proceeding to look at the data. Thorough analyses of a variety of parameters - date, time, duration, size, witnesses, etc. - are given. Finally,

he looked at patterns analysis. Thirty five separate, statistically significant, correlations were found, with clusters of interesting factors, e.g. the presence of a light beam, control of a vehicle, a physiological effect, and the chasing of a vehicle. In summarising his thoughts about the clusters, Rodeghier commented:

"(1) It is unlikely that a natural phenomena would suddenly begin occurring with some frequency after 1953, when many vehicles had been on the road for dozens of years before that date.

(2) A natural phenomena would probably not occur preferentially in unpopulated areas.

(3) There is no ready explanation for the avoidance of the daylight hours by EM events...

(4) No relationship was demonstrated between severity of EM effects and the distance to the UFO, unexpected for natural phenomena.

(5) The presence of humanoids in several events is an obvious difficulty.

(6) While a spinning plasma might appear metallic to an individual under certain lighting conditions, it is unlikely that so many witnesses have been unable to determine the true appearance of the phenomena". {15}

He concluded:

"These considerations, in conjunction with the existence of two strongly correlated groups of characteristics, argue powerfully against the hypothesis that all EM events are due to unknown natural phenomena". {15}

1981 seemed to be the year commencing a more rigorous examination of the available data. Donald A. Johnson presented a paper to the second CUFOS conference, held in Chicago, in September of that year. He chose 78 cases which provided details of size, distance and duration and analysed them. Seven clusters of information were found:

"The incomplete ignition interference cases were found predominantly in two clusters; both representing encounters with small objects of

brief duration. One cluster in which all encounters resulted in stalled vehicles identified cases of high strangeness {occupant and contact reports". [16]

The most recent study to come to my attention is a currently unpublished one (1984) conducted by Patricia McMahon (17) of the U.S.A. who looked for patterns in VIE events. She reiterates a call for better data gathering.

From our review we can see that there have been a multitude of explanations put forward to explain VIE events. A partial listing might read as follows:

1. Hoax
2. Witness panics
3. Psychological
4. Internal stimuli not yet understood (parapsychological)
5. External stimuli - natural
6. External stimuli - the UFO phenomena

However, and most importantly in my opinion, as pointed out by the Valleys (1966), BUFORA (1979), Friedman (1980), Rodeghier (1981) and McMahon (1982), the vital thing we still lack is hard data. Relatively few cases detail exactly what the witnesses did to the vehicle (e.g. did they brake, declutch etc.), what the exact effects were (e.g. did the oil and ignition lights come on when it stalled), exactly how did the event end (e.g. how did the engine restart).

It appears to me that, although pioneering efforts have been made to gather some data, we have insufficient good hard data to hand to really evaluate much more than has been achieved so far. The remedy to this is threefold. Firstly, a call to all investigators to comb their files for past VIE cases and ensure they are published. Secondly, for all future events to be carefully investigated, documented, and published in full. Thirdly, there is a crying need for someone, or a group of people, to start looking indepth at these cases. They represent a sub-group of reports from which we should be able to retrieve a vast amount of material. If there are any takers for initiating such a study group, either within an organisation or just as a loose network of researchers, this author

would be interested in joining in.

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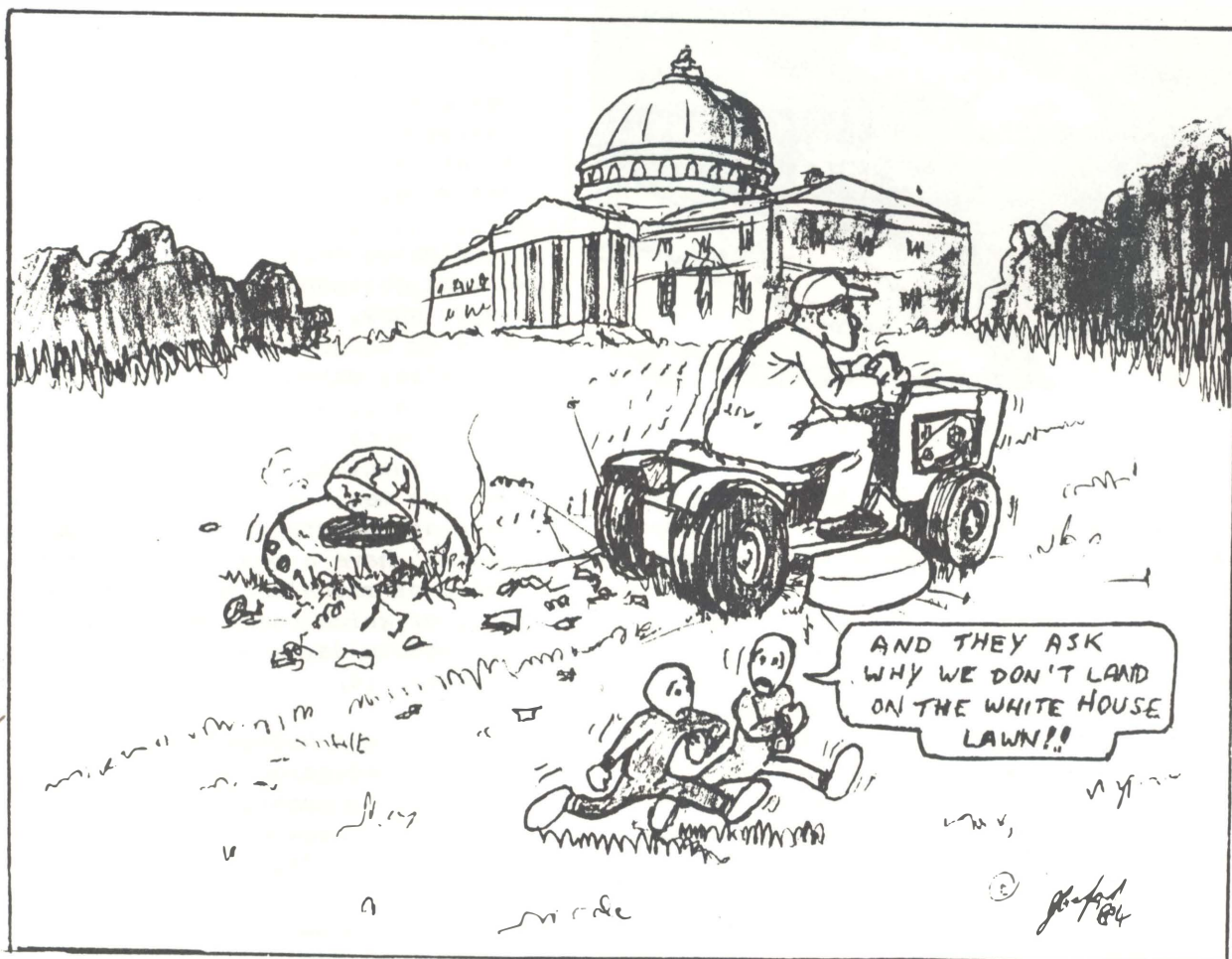
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Australian

"Interrupted Journeys"

BY BILL CHALKER



Aboriginal Wandjina figures

Interactions with the UFO phenomenon have occurred at many levels. The most compelling for science are those that are readily amenable to traditional scientific method. The area of physical evidence and traces are one case in point (1), however, other types of accounts seem to be opening up new vistas. One such area of enquiry is where the percipient of the UFO experience does not have a total recall of events. The overseas experience has noted this loss of total recall, or memory loss, in several types of UFO events. These have been mainly in the contact and so-called abduction genre. Their validity has been a subject of considerable debate, but this is a theme I will return to later.

Until recently it has been noted that, upon first inspection, "we appear to have a com-

plete absence of time loss 'abduction' contact cases. Keith Basterfield, myself, and others have demonstrated that Australia does have a considerable body of entity accounts, and yet none of them demonstratively show 'contact' aspects. It can be shown that Australia has a large body of evidential cases of the peripheral 'contact' type. Here I am referring to the situation where a witness encounters a UFO, an entity or some kindred manifestation, and then some manner of interaction takes place, either in an objective or subjective way". (2) (3)

I indicated only two years ago that: "While we lack contemporary cases which demonstratively show, among other things, the elements of abduction, contact and time lapse, Australia, unbeknown to most researchers, enjoyed a rich indigenous tradition of similar accounts. Here I refer primarily to the tribal initiation accounts of aboriginal medicine men - men of 'high degree' as A.P. Elkin aptly puts it.* These aboriginal 'shaman' have a powerful and consistent tradition of ritualistic initiation, the elements of which bare amazing similarities to many modern day UFO abduction and contact accounts. (4)

"Thus, while a hidden body of data on the contact, abduction, and time-lapse variety may exist in Australia today, we really only have a few cases which, in certain aspects, reflect these factors as well as a remarkable

*It is with much sadness that I note the passing of Professor Elkin in 1979. While he is no longer with us, his extraordinary work on indigenous folklore and Australian aboriginal culture will, no doubt, be timeless.

aboriginal tradition of such cases. The latter, because of their mystical, shamanistic, framework, really allude definitive correlations with the contemporary UFO contact tradition". (5)

In a manner, often disconcertingly characteristic of the UFO subject, our enquiries exhumed a number of antipodean cases of the "interrupted journey" genre. By way of an interesting synchronicity, the first of these (1971 - Gladstone) came to my notice at the time I was highlighting the apparent absence of such cases (6) and, early in 1978, I was caught up in an extended, and on-going, investigation of another (1978 - Bakers Creek Falls). Since then a small, but fascinating, body of "interrupted journeys" has surfaced. The presence of such stimuli as the film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind", and the burgeoning literature on the theme, cannot be clearly viewed as a cause of the appearance of these cases. Two of the cases to be presented occurred before the publicity that accompanied the advent of "CE3K". What follows is a sampling of the "interrupted journeys" that have appeared. Part I will describe these cases and Part II will try and make some sense out of them.

PART I:

AUSTRALIAN "INTERRUPTED JOURNEYS"

CASE ONE: GLADSTONE-ROCKHAMPTON, QUEENSLAND, 1971. {7}

After finding out about this case in 1977 (I and others had heard many rumours of a "teleportation" or "Hill" type case in the Gladstone area for a number of years previous to this), two years of investigation took my enquiries from Queensland to Western Australia, then as far afield as Finland and Sweden, to finally return to Queensland. I finally managed to catch up with the original witnesses and I am confident that what follows is an accurate representation of what happened:

On the night of August 1, 1971, a Finnish couple, Ben and Helen K* were returning home after visiting friends. The couple

left Gladstone soon after 11.35 p.m. Having found no petrol stations open, they were very low on fuel but decided to risk the trip to Rockhampton, hoping to find an open petrol station in one of the small centres on the way, before their tank ran dry.

The night was foggy and dark. By midnight they had arrived at Calliope River. After passing over the bridge, and beginning to travel along the straight stretch of road that followed, they became aware of seeing a Caltex station on the left side of the road, north of Mount Larcom, some 20 miles beyond the Calliope River bridge! The station was closed but, after driving some 50 yards past it, Ben K became aware that he could see "a green light at the level of the treetops" in the rear view mirror. His wife confirmed the presence of two green lights.

Then, Ben K said: "Suddenly we had a feeling that we had been driving straight forward all the time. The road seemed straight, foggy, and surrounded by trees (in this area the roads are usually winding). And we had a feeling that we were repeating the same words over and over again. We thought we should have been arriving at Mount Larcom".

Suddenly, the couple saw a light to their left and, above them, a circle of lights, similar to the lights on a merry-go-round or carousel. The next thing they saw was the Port Alma road sign, some 40 miles north of Calliope River. Immediately, after this observation, the couple found themselves at a railroad crossing outside Rockhampton, about 20 miles from Mount Morgan.

Ben K indicated: "We wondered how we had managed to get so far and why we had not seen any villages on the way. We should have seen at least four of them. We felt that something strange had happened to us. We were afraid. I took a rifle out of the trunk and loaded it. We drove to Rockhampton with the rifle on my knees. Our dog, Candy, who usually sleeps on the back seat, was afraid and wanted to come to the front seat".

In the middle of Rockhampton, the couple found an open petrol station. It was there that the bizarre nature of the trip really struck home. They were shocked to find that the time was only 15 minutes past midnight! Only 40 minutes had passed since they had

*Names and address on file (not for publication)

left Gladstone. At the average speed, the couple estimated they were driving at, some 35 to 40 mph, the trip time would have been in excess of an hour, probably closer to two hours. It seemed that the couple covered the distance in almost half the required time and, on top of that, had no conscious recollection of passing through any villages. They only remembered the Caltex station and the Port Alma road sign.

The service station attendant in Rockhampton became very interested at that. Then peculiar things were discovered on the car. The couple's car (1971 Valiant sedan) was covered with a very thin film of odourless oil. The attendant could not identify it but suggested it would be used on "very fine machinery unknown to him". In the corners of the oil covered bonnet, four round marks, two in each rear corner, were noticed. All were identical, being one eighth of an inch wide and nine inches in diameter. In the middle of each circle there was a spot - a one inch solid circle. Oil traces ran in two stripes from the circles towards the nose of the car. A defect in the duco, described as being burnt, was found on the right-hand side front of the bonnet (with respect to viewing site from in front of the car), above the headlight (left headlight with respect to driver).

The mystery deepened as the number of people gathering around the car, in curiosity, grew. Ben K said, "after a while another driver came to the station. He said he had passed us before the Calliope River. He couldn't understand how we could have arrived at Rockhampton before him.

"Finally, we went to the police station and told our story. But the young officer said (after examining the oil and marks on the bonnet): 'All I can say is that I have often fallen asleep at the steering wheel and woken up after a 200-300 mile'". Beware of somnambulistic police officers in the Rockhampton area!

The couple wanted to contact the local newspaper but, at that hour, it was closed. They drove around Rockhampton for a while, with their car drawing stares whenever they stopped.

In an effort to reconcile, in their own minds, what happened, Ben K states: "Slowly

it dawned on us what happened. As we were so concerned about the petrol station, UFOs lifted us from Calliope River, past Mount Larcom, to the Caltex Service Station, and, from there, during a second lift, via Port Alma Junction, to the railway crossing a couple of miles from Rockhampton. (That is an excellent solution to a petrol crisis).

"We continued our trip around 3 o'clock and had 300 miles of foggy driving ahead of us. We were wishing that UFOs would come and help us again, but that didn't eventuate.

"During the following day we did inspect our car more carefully and thought that the paint work had burned, lifting off in flakes. This wasn't the case; as the oil, mixed with dust, had started to dry up, it produced this flaking. We tried and found out the mixture of 'oil and dust' was water soluble..."

The experience on the night of August 1-2, 1971, changed the couple's lives to a degree. They subsequently saw a number of UFOs and Helen K had several possibly related experiences of telepathy (one in relation to a UFO event (8)) and precognition.

An analysis was done on the "burnt" spot on the bonnet by Finnish UFO researchers and it was concluded that the site came in contact with extreme heat. Hypnotic regression was also attempted on the couple, however, nothing further was elicited. Each time induction was attempted, and recall of that evening was attempted, they would begin to shake violently. The hypnotist gave up the attempt. (9)

CASE TWO: MOONIE, QUEENSLAND, 1977. [10]

The "Balonne Beacon" newspaper of St George, Queensland, described the following odd events in its March 17, 1977, edition. The details may be germane to our enquiries. The incident took place in a very isolated locale, with only scattered homesteads:

"Two travellers from Brisbane report an unnerving experience when they came under the attention of a UFO near Moonie last night. Jennifer Hands and Michael Noonan had pulled up about 10.30 for an hours sleep a few miles this side of the township. Jennifer woke to find the lights of their vehicle on and asked Michael to switch them off. About

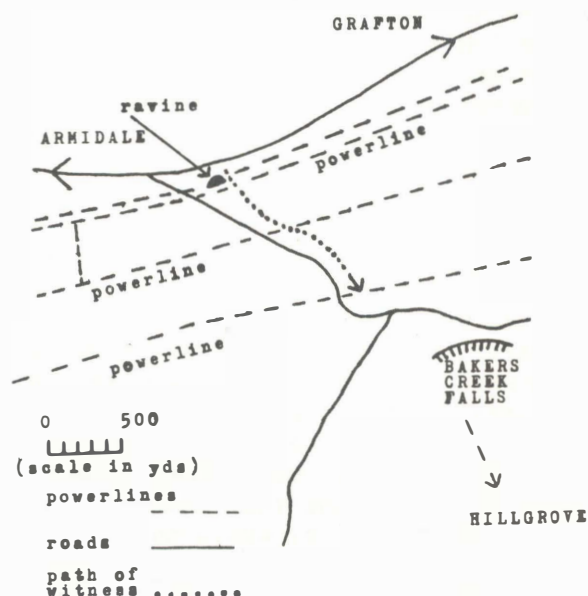
12.30 the lights were on again, but the battery was flat. Both people reported a weird sensation: on awakening, they felt they should not open their eyes and are convinced they could not have done so anyway, as some force was holding them immobile. 'The weird electrifying sensation can't be described', they said. Eventually, when they did open their eyes, a strange object with flashing lights was hovering some distance away. This rose and also moved sideways before zooming off on the approach of a truck, which clutch-started their vehicle, which, from there to St George, ran very erratically. The generator and lights would stop working and then come good again, the temperature gauge would rise high and then fall back to cold. Michael said it was hard to control at times, as though a sideways force was being exerted on it. There were also unexplained noises in the back (it's a covered ute) and in the panel work. On arrival at St George, they parked on a service station forecourt and Jennifer wrote a letter to her mother telling of the experience. As a joke, they looked up and high overhead they could see several UFOs among the stars. Michael said near where they saw the hovering UFO there was a very acrid smell, similar to that when a number of car batteries are being charged in a confined area. They also found a strange piece of material under the bonnet. This has been given to the police, to whom they have reported their experience".

Apparently, several local residents also saw strange objects in the sky shortly before midnight. It is perhaps only coincidental that the truck-driver, who assisted the young couple with a push start, apparently indicated that his truck "did not behave as well" after the incident. (11) It is of interest that the St George area has long been a centre of UFO activity and came into prominence more recently with the "shoot-out" incident. (12)

CASE THREE: BAKERS CREEK FALLS, NEW SOUTH WALES, 1978. (13)

This is the strange experience of Gary P* on the Old Grafton Armidale road, during January, 1978, which I detailed in "Austra-

*Name and address on file (not for publication).



lian UFO Newsletter" (14), thus only a summary will appear here:

During the early hours of January 10, 1978, Gary P observed two UFOs about 10 miles out of Grafton, along the Old Armidale Road. One of the objects approached and seemed to be slowly moving down the side of a mountain. It seemed to periodically issue a "shower of sparks". This sighting apparently lasted for about 20 minutes.

It is the interim journey, that follows, that is of interest here. Gary P found himself, in his Kombi, stopped on the road, at about 5 a.m. To his left, was an incredibly bright object, hovering some distance away, in the direction of Bakers Creek Falls. How did he come to find himself in this position? I quote from my report:

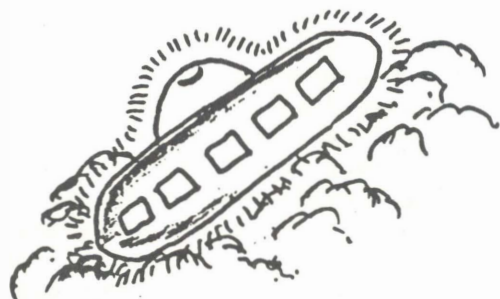
"Mr P's perception of time from leaving Grafton, up until he finds himself at Bakers Creek Falls - a distance of about a hundred miles - is certainly not clear. He thought the first sighting, out of Grafton, occurred a long time out of Grafton, but apparently, after retracing his route, he is certain that it occurred only about 10 minutes out of the town. He thought it was only a few minutes after leaving the first UFO sighting behind that he saw 'a group of hunters' gathered around a fire beside the road, but his reconstruction, upon returning along that road, places these 'hunters' a good three quarters of an hour in time after this. Then he felt it was 10 or 15 minutes

before he finds himself at Bakers Creek Falls. His second trip along that road put it at about an hour and a half. In fact, he cannot even recollect driving the distance between seeing the 'hunters' and turning up at Bakers Creek Falls. Although it is common for people to drive long distances without recollection of the trip, this particular road would seemingly preclude it. For much of its distance, it is dirt gravel surface which winds its way up into plateau country. The road twists and turns and, even when it finally gives way to a bitumen surface, it still requires complete attention to travel it safely. Having driven up and down this road many times myself, I find it astonishing that someone, not having travelled it before, would not have a vivid memory of a fairly bad road. In fact, without recall to total faculties, I would expect that a weary traveller would instead find himself parting company with the road in many places...

"Mr P's recollection of the hunters and the surrounding locality may place it at Tyingham - a small community about half-way between Grafton and Armidale. Here, in 1973, I investigated what appears to have been one of the most intensive UFO flaps ever experienced in Australia (15). Mr P did not stop and share his adventure with the 'hunters' as he felt he may have been ridiculed and the hour may not have been amenable to safe roadside meetings with strangers. Shortly after this, he recollected seeing 'the same thing again - these yellow objects out in a paddock', but he was not certain. He continued on without any recall of what happened until just outside Armidale, at Bakers Creek Falls.

"My interview with Mr P tells what happened:

"What happens was - next recollection was that I'm stopped on the side of the road, and I'm looking out to the left this time, and what I'm looking at is an incredibly bright...what I thought was a chicken farm...and I'm looking at this thing and I was watching it for a good 10 minutes and there was nothing happening...I just couldn't believe it, just how bright this thing was...and I was about to take off...I actually lined this - the chicken coop - (this thing) what I actually saw, was that the chicken coop moved!"



UFO at Bakers Creek Falls

After a lengthy diversion with an unco-operative "witness", Gary P set off into the paddock to get closer to the extraordinary object he was seeing. However, as he got nearer, the object seemed to retreat into the extensive fog that surrounded it. Gary P eventually found his way to the Falls area and saw the fog retreating out of the ravine. Suddenly, the fog stopped and Gary P was shocked to then see that the fog was now returning along its original path towards him. It quickly enveloped him, reducing visibility to less than 10 feet. The return of the fog was accompanied by a sound similar to that of a vacuum cleaner. A column through the mist could be made out above him where he could see the sky. The fog then quickly dissipated, along with the sound, leaving Gary P alone at the falls. He waited until morning then returned to the car. Standing at the car, he noticed what he described as two "shockwaves", one minute apart, which were like the whole area being suddenly shaken. Then normality, 7.05 a.m. and morning.

For further details on Gary P's experience, I direct you to my report. (16)

CASE FOUR: BALADONIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 1978. (17)

A 30 year old male truck driver experienced the following events, while driving east of Baladonia, at about 4 a.m., February 5, 1978:

"While driving west, approximately 20-30 miles east from Baladonia, I observed a large spotlight coming towards me, coming from the west, going east. I thought it was another vehicle, so I put my high beam on and off several times, but the other light did not change. Then I could see a large diamond shaped light coming towards me (No.1). It had red, blue, green and yellow

lights reflecting off the road directly below it. The white light momentarily blinded me, so I don't know whether it went directly overhead or veered to one side of me. Then I stopped the truck and got out, but couldn't see anything. After a couple of minutes, I started driving again. I started looking around when I noticed a round, dull, white light (No.2), or object, on my right hand side, which was approximately 2-3 inches in diameter, also travelling the same speed as my truck. I then stopped and the object stopped. I started driving again, then the object moved again. Then it disappeared when I drove into Baladonia. About five minutes, it reappeared on my left-hand side. I stopped, then another truck stopped, which was coming from the west, to see if I was alright. I asked if he could see anything, but the object had disappeared.

"I started driving, then it reappeared to the left again. I switched my truck head lights off (while driving), then the object went from a round shape to an elongated shape (No.3) which was approximately 17 inches by 8 inches high. It was a dull white colour with black segments (windows?). About one or two minutes later, I switched my head lights on again, then the object disappeared. About quarter, to half, an hour later, it reappeared on my right hand side as a round shape again. About 4.30 a.m., as the sky grew brighter, the object disappeared".

This account is fairly interesting from a number of points, but we also find that the driver experienced "a lapse of memory" for approximately three, to three and a half, hours, immediately preceding the UFO event. There are some gaps in this account due to illegible parts of the original account:

"When I left Boarder Village I was fully clothed. When I drove past ——— through Nidura, but I couldn't remember anything between ——— and ——— miles east of Baladonia, except for, I remember talking to somebody about inventing something (somebody wanted me to take credit for their invention, but I wouldn't agree), also I remember speaking with two voices. Next thing I remember I was four miles east of Baladonia, where I stopped my truck to refuel it, when I noticed that I still had

on my tee-shirt and Amco jacket and only my jockets, but my shorts were elsewhere in the truck cab. I didn't pick up any hitch hikers, or have anybody else with me, on the trip from east to west".

CASE FIVE: LAWITTA, TASMANIA, 1979. (18)

A young man was driving through Lawitta, near New Norfolk, at about 9.50 p.m., on February 5, 1979, when the bonnet of his car was lit up by an intense white light from overhead. The car radio went dead, the lights went out and the engine stopped. Later that night, the man was found by police in a Hobart city street. They went to speak to him because he had no lights on his car. The man did not know who he was, where he had come from, or where he lived. The police searched him, found his address on personal papers and took him home. The man boarded with friends who took him to Royal Hobart Hospital, where he was said to be suffering from shock. He had a high pulse rate. When doctors shone a light into his eyes, the young man started to recall what had happened at Lawitta. He stated that, after the car stalled, he spent 10 to 15 minutes trying to get it started. He could not recall driving to Hobart. The man declined to get involved in any further investigations.

PART II:

"INTERRUPTED JOURNEYS"

- THE TRADITION,

THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

The Australian events described in Part I, and others (19), seem to reflect a variation of the far better documented close encounter cases. Some of them hint at being the stuff of "abduction" stories and such purported "alien interactions" seem to hold considerable prominence, particularly in the Americas.

The stature that such accounts hold can be directly attributed to the famous Hill case (20), which largely established the "abduction" precedent in contemporary times. Considerable, and diverting, work has been carried out on historical antecedents of world-wide folklore (21).

The story told by the Hills incorporates a close encounter, a period of "time-loss

and an attendant mystery. The nature of the events that had befallen the New Hampshire couple, during this time period, is pivotal in significance to this aspect of the UFO mystery. Under hypnotic regression, Betty and Barney Hill told a story of being abducted, taken on board a UFO, and examined. The validity of this interpretation of these events, and the many others that followed, is the subject of this part. What follows, is of considerable relevance for understanding, and assessing, the "interrupted journey" genre.

John Fuller indicated: "a dual identical psychosis (a folie a deux) is substantially excluded by the absence of other characteristics of this rare psychosis, nor was there any other evidence of psychosis. A joint fabrication is also substantially excluded. The two remaining possibilities would appear to be:

- (1) A totally real and true experience.
- (2) An experience which had been so affected by the accompanying emotional state as to produce some perceptive and illusory misinterpretations - as embodied in the dream hypothesis".

Dr Benjamin Simon, who carried out the Hill regressions, stated: "I was ultimately left with the conclusion that the most tenable explanation that the series of dreams experienced by Mrs Hill, as the aftermath of some type of experience with an Unidentified Flying Object or some similar phenomenon, assumed the quality of a fantasied experience.

"But the whole thing could not be settled in an absolute sense. The case could be safely left as it stood, especially in view of their improvement (22). We would remain in contact, and time might eventually bring out a more complete picture".

Since the Hill case entered the public domain, numerous other cases, of the "interrupted journey" and "abduction" genre, have appeared (23). Much of the alleged physical evidence indicated to be supportive of these accounts is hotly debated (24). For example, the "star map", featured in the Hill story, is seen from two extremes. Some see it as extraordinary evidence. Others deem it as largely spurious. In fact,

even Jacques Vallee went on record to criticise the correlation of the "star map" with the Zeta Reticuli system. He somewhat unkindly referred to it as "Zeta Ridiculous" (25).

The controversy can be largely resolved into three camps:

1. The experiences are possibly objectively real - the strongest proponents of this hypothesis are the Lorenzens and their organisation, APR0. It is to their credit that they have gathered an extraordinary body of data and attempted to confirm the legitimacy of the accounts beyond hypnotic regression with "lie detector" tests and psychological evaluations. Leo Sprinkle and James Harder have done most of the work in this area (26).
2. The accounts are hoaxes or misinterpretations - the main proponents, in this can, are Phillip Klass and the late Dr Donald Menzel. Their arguments, particularly those of the former, largely revolve around the "weapon" of character assassination (27).
3. The experiences are largely of a psychological nature - this hypothesis received its strongest lift from the fascinating work of Macall and Lawson with "imaginary abductees". In conjunction with other studies (28), this type of work has effectively provided an excellent calibration of "regression" information. The correspondence of "imaginary" and "real" abduction and "interrupted journey" type experiences are impressive and indeed the similarities with other types of "journeys" and experiences ("out of body experiences", "pseudo death" accounts, etc (29)) are food for thought. Psychological phenomena, such as "time-gap", hysteric and hypnapompic imagery (30), are now being offered as possible explanations. The work of Targ & Puthoff on brain hemisphere duality, as an explanation of the extremes of information from "standard" to "exotic", in these types of situations, is particularly illuminating (31).

The perspectives, given by the wide ranging arguments for and against the validity of these types of cases, requires the research-

er should:

- (i) approach these types of cases with an open mind and, at first attempt, gain as much information as possible on that part of the experience which is extant in conscious recall. We could do no better, to gain a good perspective of these types of cases, by familiarising ourselves with the available literature. Fuller (32), Lorenzen (33) and Fowler (34) are recommended for "testing the water".
- (ii) If a "time loss" is highlighted, care should be undertaken in the way in which we approach it. Sprinkle (35) has provided an excellent starting point for those who are considering hypnosis and similar methods of "memory" retrieval. The quality of technique is of paramount importance here. An experienced practitioner, who should be qualified, accompanied by an experienced investigator, well steeped in the shortcomings of hypnotic regression technique, and a qualified psychologist, is desired. Interpretation of the information gained, under such investigation, should be cautious and well considered.
- (iii) Harold Cahn of APRO has provided an interesting method of discriminating between "true" and "false" hypnotic regression cases, which involves monitoring the bodily direct current potential. He indicates that the DC potential curve correlates with trance induction. This will assist the investigator in assessing whether the subject is validly in a deep trance during a hypnotic session (36).
- (iv) These types of investigations should be supplemented with as much supportive information as possible. Sprinkle again indicates certain things that can be undertaken ("lie-detection" through polygraph testing and psychological assessment) (37). The controversial use of psychological stress evaluation (PSE) has also been suggested as worth trying.

It can be seen that, while "interrupted

journey" accounts may offer some opportunities of assessing the interactions with the UFO phenomenon, sorties by investigators into this "murky field" should be undertaken only if they are fully aware of the total picture. This area of information retrieval brings us into the domain of the human mind's ability to articulate interactions with apparently inexplicable manifestations. It is the experienced UFO researcher, well versed in this field, who is best able to evaluate the type of information gained through this type of information retrieval. Only time will tell whether it will give us more insights into the human mind or into the UFO phenomenon. Could it be that it will do both?

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- (8) Ben K returned from night shift at approx 2.30 a.m. Helen, his wife, woke up from a deep sleep 2.55 a.m. and walked out into the dark night. 150 yards away, in the direction of the woods, she observed a bright yellow light between tree tops and the ground. It did not illuminate the surroundings.

After standing there for a minute, she claims she heard an inner voice (ostensibly telepathic) saying: "Go to bed, don't walk toward the light". Helen turned and started to go back to bed, but then returned to her original viewing spot, only again to be greeted by the "inner voice" urging her to go to bed. This time she did.

- (9) Personal communication from original percipients (B. Chalker). Further investigations are to be made.
- (10) "Balone Beacon", March 17, 1979; personal communication with editor of paper (B. Chalker).
- (11) Ibid.
- (12) UFOR(Qld); national papers, etc.; personal investigations (B. Chalker).
- (13) Personal investigation (Bill Chalker with David Reneke, UFOR(NSW)), see "A Strange Encounter at Bakers Creek Falls" by B. Chalker, p.6-12, "Australian UFO Newsletter", No.54 & 55, July-August, 1979.
- (14) Ibid. now called "Australian UFO Researcher", published by UFO Research (NSW), PO Box 6, Lane Cove, NSW, 2066, Australia.
- (15) "The Tyringham-Dundurrabin UFO Flap" by Bill Chalker (personal investigation).
- (16) Ibid, (14).
- (17) Courtesy of Jeff Bell, UFOR(WA) and ACOS.
- (18) Courtesy of TUFOIC & ACOS. See also the "Mercury Hobart", February 17, 1979.
- (19) A number of other accounts have come to light, however, these are either still under investigation or have not yet been confirmed. It should be noted that even Quentin Fogarty claims that a "time warp" occurred during New Zealand TV film UFO incident on December 31, 1978, (personal communication (B. Chalker); see also Australian Playbody).
- (20) "The Interrupted Journey" by John G. Fuller.
- (21) See, for example, Jacques Vallee's "Passport to Magonia".
- (22) Ibid. (20).
- (23) See "Abducted" by Coral & Jim Lorenzen (APRO, 1977). See also "The Andreasson Affair" by Raymond Fowler (1979) for a detailed investigative account of a "classic" abduction experience.
- (24) See, for example, Klass' "UFOs Identified".
- (25) "Messengers of Deception" by Jacques Vallee (1979).
- (26) See APRO Bulletin and also "Abducted", Ibid. (23).
- (27) Ibid. (24).
- (28) "What We Can Learn from Imaginary Abductees" by Alvin A. Lawson, MUFON UFO Journal (1977).
- (29) See works by D. Scott Rogo, Charles Tart, Raymond Moody's "Life After Life" (1975), etc.
- (30) Hypnagogic imagery as a possible mechanism for UFOs has been popular amongst French civilian researchers. Here in Australia, Keith Basterfield has written an excellent paper on the "imagery" hypothesis; "A Possible Psychological Explanation for Certain Close Encounters with the UFO Phenomena" by Keith Basterfield, UFO(SA) Inc. Newsletter, No.33, Sept.-Oct. 1978. See also Guerin's comments on this hypothesis in FSR, Vol.25, No.1 (1979, p.11-13).
- (31) "Mindreach" by Targ & Puthoff (1977).
- (32) Ibid. (20); (33) Ibid. (23); (34) Ibid. (23).
- (35) "Hypnotic Time Regression Procedures in the Investigation of UFO Experiences" by R. Leo Sprinkle, Ph.D. in Lorenzens (1977), Ibid. (23).
- (36) "Use of Hypnosis to discriminate 'True' and 'False' UFO Experiences" by Harold

A. Cahn, Ph.D. APRO Bulletin, March 1979.

(37) Ibid. (23).■

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newsclips

RAAF to cut UFO checks

CANBERRA — The RAAF will bother with UFOs only if they appear to be dangerous to national security.

The investigation of every sighting — the RAAF calls them unusual aerial sightings — has proved too expensive. The Minister for Defence, Mr Scholes, said yesterday that the RAAF would investigate fully only sightings suggesting "a defence or national security implication."

"THE ADVERTISER" — Adelaide, Sth Aust
May 3, 1984.



WILLIAM D. LEET: It is with sadness that I advise readers of the death of Bill Leet on December 9, 1983.

Bill had a bright, enquiring, mind and this was clearly reflected in his forum critique: "A UFO Vision? The Mystery of 'A Machine To Go Through the Air'", which appeared in the July-August, 1983, edition of UFORAN.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Bill's family. — Ed.■

forum



GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

SAY IT IN FORUM IN 500 WORDS OR LESS.

CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM AND DISCUSSION

IS WELCOMED AND WILL BE PUBLISHED

WHENEVER SPACE PERMITS. — ED.■

RUMOURS AND PUBLICITY - THEIR CAUSES AND EFFECTS

BY MARK TYRRELL (U.K.)

of the Organisation for Scientific Evaluation of Aerial Phenomena (OSEAP)

Throughout 1980, and the early part of 1981, there were two or three aspects of "ufology" which I had occasion to think deeply about. They were, then, separate channels of thought which were yet to combine and form a whole.

Witness and non-witness misconceptions and preconceptions; the value of media publicity; rumour-mongering and public attitudes. As my work within FUFOR evolved, these factors seemed to be more and more important to an understanding of the subject proper. The trigger for forming all those things into this paper was an article I had published in "Northern Ufology" No.77, during October 1980. That piece is incorporated into this paper and suggested that the reason for the low level of UFO reports was over-publicity and familiarisation; whilst at the same time dealing with the question of whether publicity itself was desirable.

I have extended on those ideas and hope the reader will find what I have written to be, at the very least, thought provoking. I would stress that what unfolds is only a result of my own observations and suggestions of "what might be". I may be wrong in what I surmise but you the reader must decide for yourself.

Ufology, as a whole, comprises various elements: investigation and research of an objective nature; pseudo-religious cultism; pseudo-scientific adherence and published literature which is, for the most part, bad or indifferent - leaving only a

small percentage of books and magazines really worth bothering with. A direct result of this is a self-perpetuating rumour and myth-making machinery, which constantly threatens to submerge any realistic attempt at trying to solve the UFO enigma under a sea of misinformation, fraud and ridicule.

Apart from those who accept the existence of UFOs as an article of faith (i.e. a belief in space brothers) and therefore know the answers we seek in their own minds, the constant aim of ufologists in general, besides attempting to discover what is causing the phenomena, has been to try and interest the scientific establishment in the subject.

This appears to be a near-impossible task because of the reasons above, as well as the activities of some which exceed the merely irresponsible. Blatant disregard for objectivity seems rife and as one flips through the pages of the literature, there becomes apparent a repeater mechanism. One case can be found in several publications, always with slightly differing details. That media favourite, "The Bermuda Triangle" is one such example; this area of the world has provided us with death rays, disappearing ships and aircraft, underwater cities, magnetic vortices etc (1). Such things sell books and magazines, at the expense of truth! UFOs and peripheral mysteries are very marketable concerns.

The more sensational an article or book, the more it sells and the more suspect becomes the research and truthfulness behind the material contained therein. This had been pointed out quite forcibly by a number



of writers (2) (3).

The end result of this is that the subject becomes immersed in a welter of rumours and, sometimes, paranoia. The investigator will find his head spinning with the numerous theories that crop up time

and time again and, if he lets himself be carried away on a wave of subjectivity, start to believe almost anything he wishes to. Any small, unusual, incident that happens - purely coincidental to everyday existence or an interest in the UFO subject - will become blown out of all proportion. In most cases this is overcome by common-sense; but there are those who perpetuate their own self-made rumour structure to the detriment of all concerned.

To illustrate this point more clearly, I would ask the reader to place themselves as an interested "lay-person", wishing to see how a UFO group works - with a view to eventually joining that organisation. What would you make of UFO investigators if confronted by stories such as these: investigators claiming to see black blobs in the street and flying pterodactyls; a "friend of a friend" (ad-infinitum) who has been pursued by mysterious cars and once dived out of a moving vehicle (Starsky and Hutch style) armed with a pistol, and waited for the pursuing car to turn up, which it never did having apparently disappeared; an investigator who once thought his girlfriend was giving birth to a new Christ; a UFO group, the members of which nobody seems to know but supposedly has neo-Nazi connections; an investigator, and the term is used loosely here, who travels around with a sawn-off shotgun just in case "they" come for him. These stories may seem amazing but they are ones that have reached my ears from time to time. The list of such anecdotes is probably endless if one was prepared to dig a little deeper than this small sample, but it all tends to get a little frightening trying to comprehend how such stories arise, even more so when you meet people who place quite some credence in them. Truth tends to become intermingled with outright fantasy and I wonder

if these fringe beliefs somehow reflect the dark recesses of the minds of the objective researchers within the subject. Perhaps there is a need for such tales in that they give a warning to those of us who, hopefully, follow a common-sense path not to stray from it? It is a warning that I, personally, have every intention of heeding.

Some investigators tend to make the facts of a case fit their own theories as to its origins. This can be done consciously, or subconsciously, without the perpetrators knowledge. Thus is a rumour born. Sladek writes (4):

"Rumour, or information generated by hysteria, in its milder form amounts to no more than weighting facts with emotional ballast. Further up the scale, facts are considerably distorted, until stories begin to resemble dreams (or nightmares). At rumours worse, or lynch-mob stage, hallucinations and delusions take over from facts".

Such hysteria is common-place in today's society. Well I remember the stories that swept my own town, Crewe, one summer in the early seventies. Apparently some children had been horribly mutilated on a playground slide. The cause was said to be a strategically placed razorblade somewhere on the chute. I think the reader will agree it was a tale to make the blood run cold. What began as a few veiled references to the incident developed into the classic syndrome of "somebody knowing somebody" whose child it was who was injured. Others said that they had talked to police officers in their local public house who stated that the story was true. Any factual affront to human morality and decency arouses such emotional hysteria, but when the cause is based on hearsay and fantasy the effects can be parallel. Indeed, the rumours reached such epidemic proportions that it took a denial in the local press, by the Crewe Constabulary, that such an event ever took place.

A study of rumours was conducted by Professor Allport, of Harvard University, during the Second World War (5). It was found that loss of information and embroidery, in a large number of instances, could be measured as follows:

TELLER	LOSS OF INFORMATION	INVENTION/EMBROIDERY
No.1	20%	4%
No.2	30%	5%
No.3	65%	15%
No.4	75%	20%
No.5	80%	30%

This distortion was found to occur in three stages:

1. OMISSION: either stemming from an inability to comprehend certain factors of the tale being told, or some details do not fit in with the original interpretation of the facts.

2. ACCENTUATION/EMPHASIS: those remaining facts are then overemphasised and thus make the story more easily understood.

3. ASSIMILATION: the information is made to fit in with past experiences and references, itself a product of the omission and accentuation quoted above. The facts are made to conform with one's interpretation of them.

Rumours come and go, others are more persistent and seemingly based on fact and circumstantial evidence; the oft-repeated stories of crashed "saucers" and their dead pilots being one example. Such tales have a very high probability of being false; but I would be pleasantly surprised to be proved wrong in this assumption.

Within this framework is it any wonder that prejudice can also be one of the nutrients upon which rumour feeds, and as such can be a powerful political weapon. Racial hatred, on either side, can be manipulated in this manner and nowhere was this more readily illustrated than in World War II, if one reads Nazi propaganda against the Jewish race (6). Such mythology reaches down through the years and finds itself utilised against today's minority groups. To further quote Sladek:

"...the frightening aspect of propaganda is not the slanted news item, the scare headline or the ranting orator, but the strong appeal of such tricks to mental stereotypes of reality".

MR SPOCK'S FANS GO UP THE POLE;

WOT, NO UFOs?;
ALBERT'S SPACE ODDITY;
GOING ROUND THE BEND-VISITORS FROM
OUTER SPACE;
THE PEEPING TOM FROM OUTER SPACE;
JESSIE GETS SURPRISE GLOW;
HAPPY NEW YEAR...FROM THE UFO.

Well, what impression do you get from the above-quoted headlines? Is it, I wonder, what the Editor, who passed them for publication, wanted you to have? One of good-humoured ridicule with no thought that a witness may have had a genuinely frightening experience? How many, upon reading them, smiled knowingly to themselves and passed on to the sports or woman's page. I agree, when weighed against the important issues of the world, they rate very low in what should have priority of news-space, but I do feel that the UFO subject deserves to be treated in the same manner as "more serious" items of news. All the above headlines were from the major sighting year 1977 by the way.

Two things arise from the headlines, but first give them another glance. Does anything come to mind from the emotive phrasing they employ? Well, two of them mention "outer space". The use of these words has no foundation in reality, but it is what the general public has in mind when it ever discusses the UFO phenomena either seriously or as a subject of ridicule. Both attitudes stem from an ignorance of the subject, but such preconceptions are caused by external influences such as the press. Another example of this external influence is given in the first headline quoted above - MR SPOCK'S FANS GO UP THE POLE. Popular science fiction, such as the TV serial referred to here - "Star Trek", also adds to these misconceptions, but more of them later.

The profession of Journalism is possessed of both the ignoble and noble; its extremes range from the exposure of great evils in society and trying to make the public aware of what is happening in the world about it, down to appealing to man's baser instincts.

WAS GOD AN ASTRONAUT?



For instance, we all know of the traditional reputation of the Sunday newspapers, the journalese of which has now extended into the working week.

The power of the media, through television, cinema, radio and the newspapers is immense and it is often said that power corrupts. The world of ufology has not remained untouched, or uncorrupted, by this power. That friendly editor is after news that will sell his paper, or increase his listeners, more often than not at the cost of objectivity. Public recognition, for whatever motive, is attractive whether it be in print or on television and radio. One issue of an English UFO magazine was devoted in its entirety to this subject (7). The inspiration for the issue, as one reads through its pages, is exactly what I have touched upon, the misconceptions and inaccuracies that abound when reports of UFOs are given. A prime example of the lure of the media itself is given by the magazine's editor, Jenny Randles, a well-known UFO personality in her own right. In an appraisal of her own situation (8) she states:

"I was hypnotised by the charming lure of the journalist or producer who assured me that this time it was going to be different. It never was and hardly ever will be!"

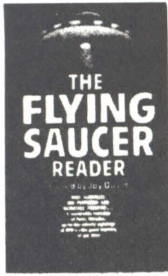
The nature of the UFO phenomenon is such that it easily lends itself to sensationalism. This is one of the things that are the stock-in-trade of the seedier side of journalism. Whilst trying to convey an objective outlook on the subject, one can find oneself manipulated by the media because of the state of mind which develops, as in Jenny Randle's case. If the 'victim' is one whose naivety lends itself to esoteric belief systems, then the danger of susceptibility increases. There is no easy remedy to this situation. There will always be a fringe element to UFO research which deals in matters bordering on the very strange. Such are the staple diet of news editors with a wary eye on reader or listener ratings. Perhaps it would be better to have no publicity at all?

Nationally, the picture is bleak but on a local scale the situation is somewhat better for the UFO group wanting to be known in its own area. Local interest is the ingredient which staves off sensationalistic UFO reporting for a good period of time. It is possible, whilst treading very carefully, for a group to have something published on its own terms. An example of this is the photographic case, investigated by FUFOR, which was alleged to have occurred during September, 1978 (9). The group wanted to appeal for corroborative witnesses and the only way it could do this was to have an interview at the local newspaper, "The Crewe Chronicle", with the editor. Stephen Cleaver, the Chairman of FUFOR, went along armed with the relevant data and the photographs to see him. Upon seeing the pictures, the editor wanted to have them for immediate publication, irrespective of whether they were real or fake. A deal was made that if the paper would publish an appeal for extra witnesses, they could have the full story about the photographs when FUFOR's investigations were complete. An appeal was printed (10) and the investigations carried on until the middle of 1979 and the photographs were found to be fake. Nevertheless, FUFOR kept its part of the bargain with the editor and gave him the story. Although fake, the pictures received front page coverage (11), despite the fact that a local Crewe lad had been killed in Northern Ireland whilst on a tour of duty and details were printed in the same issue. The priority of stories may have been somewhat questionable but the editor kept his part of the bargain, even to the extent of having the exposure printed in the "Manchester Evening News", a move which was never expected (12).

Although press and radio publicity is desirable for a UFO group, apart from the manipulative aspects of such, there is a danger of over-exposure and subconscious effects on the testimony of future witnesses.

Take 1977, there was an enormous wave of sightings within the United Kingdom which were widely reported in the press. This generated a lot of interest all over the nation and kept the pages of the national newspapers full with accounts of strange things seen zooming through our skies, sometimes landing, and sometimes disgorging their 'pilots'.

Such widespread exposure creates the dan-



ger of the public starting to take the UFO phenomena for granted as the subject becomes assimilated into everyday experience. The UFO could, conceivably, pass out of fashion as a topic to be discussed and reports eventually become so commonplace that witnesses might not even bother to report their experiences to a UFO group.

I have come across witnesses who have had to be coaxed into giving even the most basic sighting details because they were thinking that it was a waste of time. In their own minds they were saying that, after all the reports that have appeared in the papers over the years, nobody knows what is causing them, so nothing will come from my report. Given the present state of ufology, this is a valid assumption.

If, as Hynek says (13), "education (of the public) is badly needed because of the tremendous number of misconceptions. If we could only educate the public...we would probably have less than the 90% of the UFOs", then there arises the danger of a genuine close encounter going unreported because the witness would never be sure if what was seen was unusual or otherwise!

On the other hand, the prevailing public attitude to UFOs and those who report them does have an inhibiting effect on the reporting of UFO incidents.

This was made plain to me when I looked over the results and conclusions of a study of people's attitudes to the UFO phenomena made by a local college student (14) whilst preparing a study project on UFOs, in general, for her BEC-National course assessment. The questions of the study were set out as follows:

1. Age.
2. Sex.
3. What do you understand by the term UFO?
4. Have you ever seen, or thought you have seen, a UFO?
5. If you believe that you have observed a UFO, please give any details that you remember.
6. Did you report the sighting to any official or unofficial source?
7. Please state why you did/did not report

the object.

8. Do you think there are any other forms of life in outer space?
9. The Ministry of Defence and official bodies in the U.K. are very reticent about issuing information regarding UFOs to any person enquiring into the subject. Do you think their procedure is the correct one?

10. Have you seen any of the following films?

STAR WARS, CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND, STAR TREK - THE MOVIE, SUPERMAN, ALIEN.

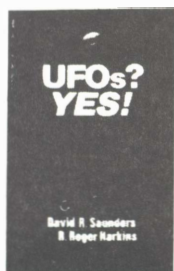
11. Have any of these films, or any other film or book you have seen recently, changed your opinion about UFOs?
12. Please state why they changed your mind.
13. If you have an image of what you think a UFO looks like, please draw it.

The selection came from one small group of workers and divided into equal numbers of females and males - 10 for each group - with ages ranging widely from 16 to 61 for both sexes.

Out of this 38 there were 10 who said they had seen a UFO, surprisingly it was 5 members of each sex. Four stated they weren't bothered enough to report it, two gave the impression that they were wary of ridicule from other people, two doubted their perceptive powers. Of the two who did report what they had seen, one joined a local UFO group shortly after and the other stated an interest to see what it was she saw, an interest which is clearly expressed by the majority of UFO witnesses I have had occasion to interview. The "tip-of-the-iceberg" effect is apparent here but I do not feel it is solely due to fear of ridicule, as expressed by major ufologists in the past, but to one of three things:

1. Lack of interest on the witness's behalf.
2. Fear of ridicule (which is apparent in reported cases).
3. The experience is so traumatic that the witness prefers to forget it ever happened.

The last reason does, I believe, constitute a very small proportion of unreported incidents and was not indicated in the survey.



Between the two sexes there appeared to be differing viewpoints amongst similar age-groups. The younger males tended to treat the subject with ridicule, although the older males expressed a more sensible attitude. Over the entire range of female age groups the response was the same, fairly reasoned and sensible replies. Why though, this difference amongst the younger age-groups of both sexes? It is probably because of the well-known fact that females tend to mature earlier during adolescence and the maturation does not level out until adolescence is over.

It has been suggested to me that the reasoned, uniformed response of the female group is due to naivety about the subject. This I doubt, the stereotype of woman's role in society is, rightfully, slowly dying away. They are educated on more equal terms than in the past, the trend being away from the traditional "feminine" pursuits. My impression, upon glancing at the responses is that the female group were less affected by the general hostile climate to the UFO subject than were their male counterparts. Due to the earlier development of the female intellectual capacity for mature and reasoned thinking. This has been confirmed when lecturing to both male and female audiences about UFOs over the last few years.

What became clear from the above project (and the sketches made thereto), and a collection of sketches I have had audiences make on two occasions, was that there was a considerable amount of preconceptions in the public's mind as to what a UFO, or flying saucer, was and what it should look like. Two questions then came to mind:

- a) Where do these non-witnesses get their ideas?
- b) Can actual witness be trusted to give an objective picture of what they perceived, when there may be such misconceptions hidden away in their mind?

There are various causes for these preconceptions and the main one is, I feel, the extra-terrestrial or outer space theory of origin which is blatantly evident in the

press reports one reads from time to time. Although this was the only concept which was treated seriously during the 50s and 60s.

Explanations, such as the ETH, are not new however. In the past, any culture reported unusual natural phenomena in terms of its own mythology and technological status. Thus making the phenomena easier to understand and more readily acceptable to the populace. History abounds with numerous examples. Thunder and lightning were both held to be the sounds of the gods at war in various European cultures, particularly in the Scandinavian countries. Other phenomenon have been described as "flying shields" or as portent from the heavens. Comets were widely held to be warnings of forthcoming disasters of great magnitude. So it is today, with the popular concept of what UFOs are.

Mankind has taken the first faltering steps into space on a journey that should be without end. Therefore, says public opinion, why not spaceships arriving on Earth? The imagery even parallels that of olden times, the pilots of such craft either being of godlike countenance or like denizens of Hades. Always utilising technology well in advance of that used by the Earth dwellers.

The influence of films, television and books cannot be understated here. Particularly in the field of advertising. The film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" being a case in point. Also, in recent years, particularly since 1977, a major sighting year for the United Kingdom, there has been a marked increase in UFO-related material used to sell consumer goods. These include motor cars, confectionery, clothes and the over-popular mashed potato advertisements. All of these examples give pictorial representations of UFOs as technological, interstellar machines.

Therefore, to test these preconceptions, 61 people were asked to "draw what you feel a UFO looks like". The sample consisted of the above-mentioned college project and two other samples I had personally collected from audiences prior to giving a lecture on the subject. Of the 61, 42 responded with the following results:

Oval shape:	8	19.00%
Spherical:	8	19.00%
Cigar:	4	9.50%
Disc	4	9.50%

Disc with cupola:	11	26.00%
Space capsule:	1	2.75%
Frivolous (all male):	<u>6</u>	<u>14.25%</u>
	42	100.00%

Of the above sample, 24 had either, or both, windows and doors drawn on, the majority of these being on the disc with cupola type sketches; 16 had legs or other protuberances drawn on whilst only 6 had some type of representation of radiation coming from the object, indicating an esoteric propulsion system. Significantly, only one object had an occupant drawn in it (excluding the frivolous sketches). Definitely an underlying current runs through the results - a belief in the extraterrestrial and technological reality of UFOs.

The next step was to compare the above sketches with those out of the literature to see if comparisons with "actual" sightings existed. For my test sample I chose four years of "Flying Saucer Review" from 1968 to 1971 inclusive. The reason for choosing this period was that it was suitably removed, in time, so that the subjects could not have any conceivable direct access to the sketches with which their own drawings were compared.

The criteria for comparison was very strict, the subject's drawing would have to be so near to an FSR sketch, in shape and surface details, that it would appear to an outside observer to have been made about the same sighting. In fact, some came very close to being exact replicas in one or two instances.

Out of the 42 drawings, only 2 frivolous ones were discarded - the others bearing a reasonable shape - leaving a test sample of 40. The number of FSR sketches for the four years was 63.

The results were that out of the test sample of 40 drawings, 23 (57.5%) met the criteria stated above. 9 (22.5%) actually correlated with more than one sighting and there were a total of 38 correlations altogether. These broke down into the following:

15 Disc and cupola
8 Spherical
5 Cigar

6 Ovals
3 Pyramid-shaped
1 Disc
38 Correlations

From even the above small sample, there is a strong indication of ingrained preconceptions as to the UFO phenomena. It is not without significance that disc and cupola shaped objects feature highly - this being the traditional shape.

If we take what the figures indicate, then it becomes apparent that there is a 66% chance of a witness having preconceptions about the UFO phenomena and if that witness is interviewed by a clumsy investigator then any account will be greatly coloured by the subconscious belief that might exist in that witness.

Therefore, to sum up the results, it must be realised that if a larger number of sighting sketches from FSR had been used then the percentage of correlations might have been higher; but the quantitative amount of these in the test sample is secondary to the main gist of the point I'm putting forward, which is: that because of the conditioning of the public's attitudes towards the UFO phenomena, witnesses cannot be relied upon to give an objective account of what they have experienced. Because of this reason, a substantive amount of sightings can be put down to preconceptions which come to the fore when a visual stimuli is perceived.

Taking into account the survey just reviewed, then it becomes obvious that the hidden reports one hears so much about, the "tip of the iceberg" situation, will not be revealed by constant publicity in the press. Anything substantial will come forward by the removal of what Dr Hynek called the "ridicule barrier" (15). Unfortunately, the climate for the removal of that barrier only exists now and again on a temporary basis.

A direct result of the 1977 United Kingdom flap was that both the "Sun" (16) and the "Daily Express" (17) ran a series on UFO cases. From a ufological point of view both series fell short in what they tried to achieve.

Firstly, the Sun series which had the unfortunate title "Watch Out There's a UFO



About''

Although featuring numerous British UFO cases which might not have come to the attention of the public, anything objective or worthwhile was buried under an avalanche of sensationalistic writing and the prominence of headlines such as these:

MYSTERY OF THE SILVER SPACE BEAM,
THE STRANGE ONES,
THE TALL VISITOR,
THE "SPACEMEN" WHO HAUNT THE TERROR
TRIANGLE,
7FT FIGURE HAD NO FACE.

Such journalese has been the stock-in-trade of American pulp magazines for years. It was saddening to see the subject treated in such a fashion. The Sun though, is a populist newspaper and to grab the readers' attention such methods, I suppose, must be used.

Take for instance, the headline THE SPACEMEN WHO HAUNT THE TERROR TRIANGLE! Ever since that area around Bermuda became notorious for disappearing ships and aircraft and was named 'The Bermuda Triangle', has the word been used. 'The Welsh Triangle', the 'Great Lakes Triangle', they do not exist except in the imagination of sensationalistic authors. As a concept for serious research they have no basis in actuality.

The series in the Daily Express was titled 'The Year of the UFO' and was published as a tie-in with a parallel series featuring the Close Encounters film. On the whole it treated the subject much more seriously and featured major cases from home and abroad. Examples being the Travis Walton abduction case from America and the multiple witness case from Broad Haven. Headline captions were less emotive in all respects and a seemingly positive step was the creation of the 'Daily Express UFO Bureau'. Readers were invited to send in details of their sightings, remaining anonymous if they wished. About 4,000 accounts were received and these were split between the UFO Investigators Network, from the north of England, and the British UFO Research Association, centred in London, for further action if necessary.

Despite the huge numbers of reports received from the public, the atmosphere of being able to tell someone about ones sighting, in relative seriousness, was unfortunately short-lived. Sensationalism is for the moment and is not a long term concept.

Although the two series may have had some initial success in attracting UFO witnesses to come forward, they may have had a negative effect in the long term. Despite the large number of sightings in 1977, and 1978 to a lesser degree, as publicity focused the public's attention on the subject then the reported incidents started to decrease. Take for instance the experience of my own organisation (FUFOR); during 1978 and 1979 it had excellent coverage in the local press, plus an exhibition at a local cinema to tie-in with the Close Encounters film, but less and less sightings coming in.

Apart from the possibility discussed earlier in this paper, that of assimilation into everyday experience, it could be that by constant exposure of UFO-related material within the newspapers, television and on the big screen, the media is stripping away the mystery of the phenomena, by making it commonplace, before it has been solved.

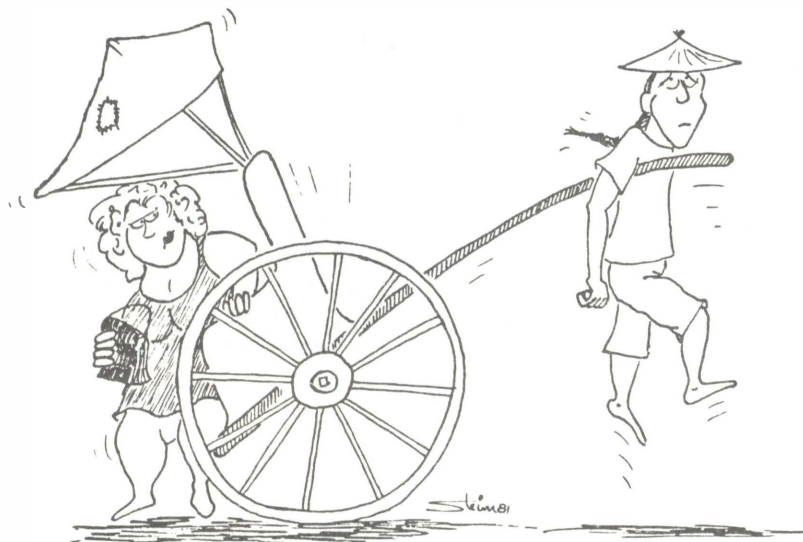
Unless ufology starts to maintain an air of professionalism, this cannot be avoided. The investigative body must make sure it has good local relations with regional authorities which bypass channels through the media. The investigator can then begin, hopefully, to be seen as a sympathetic, open-minded individual who will take a witness's account seriously, although this should never be at face value. This is how the 'hidden reports' will come forth, not by a reliance on the media to do the work of the UFO group, because the accent will always be tongue-in-cheek.

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